

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: CI, SOPN

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 28

1. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT NOON PRESS
BRIEFING JUNE 28:

Q: IN LAST WEEK'S PAPERS THERE WAS A STORY ABOUT A
DECISION THAT HAD TO BE MADE ON WHETHER TO EXTEND AN
ECONOMIC LOAN TO CHILE. THERE WAS AN INTERDEPARTMENTAL
MEETING ON THIS. WAS ANY DECISION REACHED?

A: YES. THIS IS THE STATUS ON THAT PARTICULAR - 2 AID
LOANS, ACTUALLY. A MEETING WAS HELD LAST WEEK, FRIDAY,
AT WHICH THE STATUS OF 2 SMALL AGRICULTURAL LOANS WHICH
HAD BEEN PROPOSED FOR CHILE WERE DISCUSSED. THE PROPOSED
LOANS WERE UNDER THE FY 77 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR CHILE APPROVED BY CONGRESS AND WERE DESIGNED TO
BENEFIT THE NEEDY PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY. A DECISION
WAS NOT REACHED AT THAT MEETING, BUT SINCE THEN A DECISION
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HAS BEEN MADE TO DEFER A DECISION ON THE LOANS FOR A
PERIOD OF 30 TO 60 DAYS.

Q: FOR WHAT (UNITELLIGIBLE)?

A: THEY ARE BEING DEFERRED TO SEE WHAT CHANGES MIGHT

DEVELOP IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHILE.

A: ISN'T THE LOAN TO THE POORER SECTIONS OF THE POPULATION, ISN'T THIS CONTRARY TO THE STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE HERE BY MR. GILLIGAN, MR. VANCE AND OTHERS, THAT THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM WOULD BE DIRECTED AT THE POORER SECTIONS, REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT?

A: THE FOREIGN AID PROGRAM IS CERTAINLY INTENDED TO GO IN THAT DIRECTION. THERE IS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NET EFFECT OF THE PROGRAM. BUT, BASICALLY, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMPONENT ALSO HAS TO FIGURE IN TO ALL DECISIONS ALONG THIS LINE.

Q: CAN YOU BE SPECIFIC ON WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE DONE IN CHILE ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: NO, I REALLY CAN'T, BERNIE; I CAN'T GIVE YOU A SET OF PRESCRIPTIONS. I THINK THIS IS SIMPLY A PERIOD OF WATCHING AND OBSERVING WHAT DEVELOPMENTS MAY BE THERE.

Q: HOW BIG A FIGURE FOR THE LOANS?

A: LET ME SEE IF I HAVE THAT; I THINK I DO. I DON'T HAVE THAT BUT I WILL GET IT FOR YOU.

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Q: CAN WE ASSUME FROM THE FACT THAT NO DECISION WAS MADE LAST FRIDAY BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MADE, THAT THERE WAS A DESIRE FOR THE SECRETARY TO GET BACK, AND THAT HE MADE THE DECISION?

A: NO, I DON'T THINK I CAN ACCEPT THAT; I THINK THAT --

Q: WAS THERE A SUBSEQUENT MEETING AFTER FRIDAY; IN OTHER WORDS, WHO MADE THE DECISION TO DEFER ON THIS?

A: WELL, --

Q: THE FRIDAY MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY RIGHT?

A: RIGHT. I THINK IT WAS MADE ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR. I DON'T KNOW WHO MADE IT.

Q: DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW HOW THE MEETING CAME ABOUT AND WHETHER MR. CHRISTOPHER IS GOING TO TAKE ANY SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY, BE GIVEN SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OVER

LATIN AMERICA?

A: I THINK THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, FROM TIME TO TIME, HAS A NUMBER OF MATTERS OF SPECIFIC ASSIGNED CONCERN. HUMAN RIGHTS, GENERALLY IS ONE, AS I THINK YOU KNOW THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS REPORTS DIRECTLY TO HIM, AND HE HAS IN THE PAST OVERSEEN WORK IN THAT AREA.

Q: BUT WHO INITIATED?

A: IN ANSWER TO THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION, I DON'T KNOW.

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Q: ON THE CHILE LOANS, DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION -- IT SEEMS TO ME THIS IS THE FIRST TIME, ANY STRICTLY ECONOMIC AID HAS BEEN HELD UP ON HUMAN RIGHTS GROUNDS; IS THAT YOUR INFORMATION ALSO?

A: I DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION, BERNIE. I HAVE NOTED WE HAVE ABSTAINED FROM VOTING IN MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ON THE STRICTLY ECONOMIC AID.

Q: IS THE OTHER BILATERAL AID THAT HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT AS HAVING BEEN CUT OR REDUCED WITH SECURITY ASSISTANCE (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

A: UP TO NOW, THE ONLY ONES I'VE ANNOUNCED FROM HERE HAVE BEEN THAT, BUT I WOULD NOT, WOULD HESITATE TO SAY THAT DEFINITELY.

Q: WHETHER IT PRECEDENT OR NOT, CAN I TURN AROUND AND ASK THE QUESTION IN MY MIND, DOES THE ADMINISTRATION INTEND TO USE FOREIGN AID AS A LEVER FOR POLITICAL CHANGE IN A REPRESSIVE REGIME; WILL YOU WITHHOLD FOOD, HATE TO PUT IT THIS WAY, BUT WILL YOU WITHHOLD FOOD FROM POOR PEOPLE AND TRY TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO TAKE A MORE, A NICER STAND TOWARD DISSIDENTS?

A: OUR BASIC CONCERN, OBVIOUSLY, IS WITH THE WELFARE OF THE HUMAN BEINGS IN A GIVEN SITUATION. I WOULD HESITATE TO SAY THAT YOU SHOULD DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS FROM WHAT IS A DEFERRAL OF A - DECISION RATHER THAN A DECISION.

Q: YOU'RE NOT ACTIVELY CONSIDERING THIS TYPE OF LEVERAGE OF -- ACROSS THE BOARD --
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A: I THINK AT THIS POINT I AM NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON
WHAT HAS NOT OCCURRED. WE WILL SEE AS WE GO ALONG.

Q: I'M SORRY, HOW MUCH MONEY IS INVOLVED HERE, HODDING?

A: I'M SORRY, I SAID I COULDN'T ANSWER THAT THE FIRST
TIME; I AM GOING TO GET IT AND POST IT. VANCE

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